

Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, "Tax Haven Banks and U.S. Tax Compliance—Obtaining the Names of U.S. Clients with Swiss Accounts." This hearing will continue the Subcommittee's examination of financial institutions which are located in offshore tax havens and which use practices that facilitate tax evasion and other misconduct by U.S. clients. One of the banks featured in a July 2008 hearing on this topic is UBS, a major financial institution headquartered in Switzerland. The hearing will examine issues related to a John Doe summons served by the IRS on UBS seeking the names of U.S. clients with UBS Swiss accounts that have not been disclosed to the IRS. In July, UBS representatives estimated that about 19,000 U.S. clients had about \$18 billion in assets in such Swiss accounts. UBS stated at the July 2008 hearing that it would cooperate with the IRS summons, but to date virtually none of the requested information has been provided to either the IRS or the U.S. Department of Justice which is also examining the matter. The hearing will examine the status of the information exchange, the role of U.S.-Swiss tax and legal assistance treaties, and the effect of Swiss secrecy laws on the information requests. A witness list will be available Friday, February 20, 2009.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 202-224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2009 at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, immediately following the Committee's business meeting at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Structuring National Security and Homeland Security at the White House."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct an executive business meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to meet, during the session of the Senate in the Reception Room, immediately off the Floor to conduct a

vote on the Committee's budget and rules for the 111th Congress. The Committee will meet immediately after the first roll call vote occurring on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 17, the nomination of Leon Panetta to be Director of the CIA; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Leon E. Panetta, of California, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today as chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence on the Senate's confirmation of Leon Panetta to be the next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Panetta is well-known to many of us for his long, distinguished record of public service, including eight terms in Congress and service as a presidential chief of staff.

Mr. Panetta knows well the inner workings of government at the highest levels. He has an impeccable reputation for integrity, and I am confident that he is the right man at the right time to lead the CIA.

Leon Panetta is a product of my home State, California, born in Monterey. His parents, Carmelo and Carmelina, ran a local cafe and later purchased a walnut ranch, which he still owns. He majored in political science at Santa Clara University, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1960.

In 1963, he received his JD from Santa Clara University as well. After law school, he served in the United States Army from 1964 to 1966, and attended the Army Intelligence School.

In 1966, Mr. Panetta joined the Washington, DC, staff of Republican Senator Thomas Kuchel of California.

In 1969, he served as Director of the Office of Civil Rights in the Office of